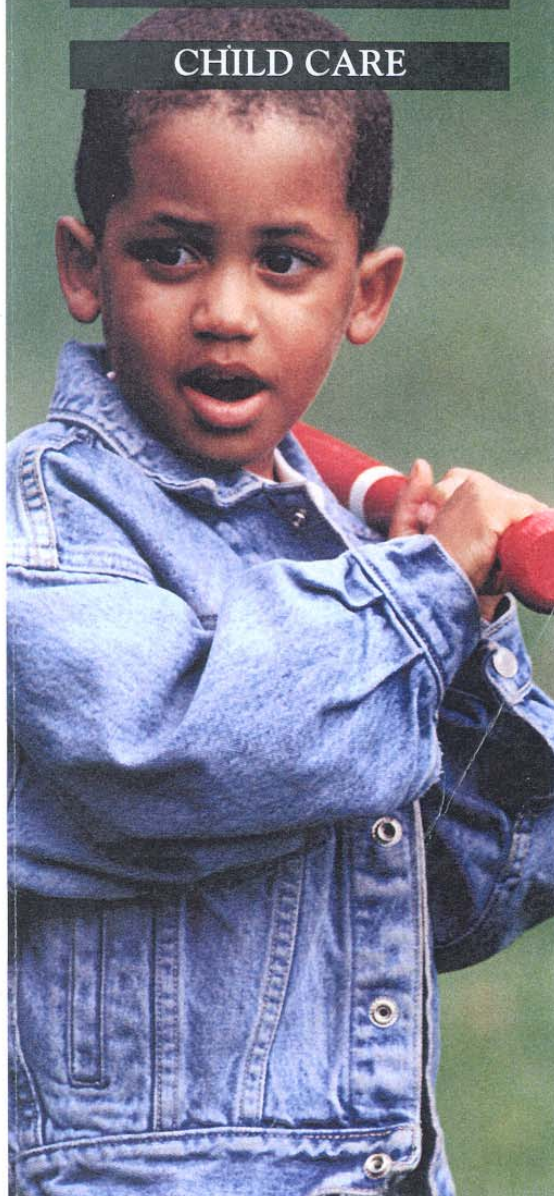


PLACE
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YOUR GUIDE TO

LEGAL

CHILD CARE





Entrusting the care of your child to another is an important decision. Take time before you choose a child care program to make sure that it is legal care. Here is information to answer the question, "Is your child care legal?"

State Law

Chapter 48.65, WI Statutes

No person shall for compensation provide care and supervision for four or more children under the age of seven for less than 24 hours a day unless that person obtains a license to operate a day care center from the Department of Health and Family Services.



When this Law Applies

The law applies when there are four or more children under the age of seven at any one time **and**:

- the care takes place outside the child's home
- the caregiver is a non-relative and non-guardian
- the parents are off the premises
- the caregiver is paid or reimbursed for services
- the child care is less than 24 hours per day

Types of Licensed Child Care

1. Group child care centers (nine or more children)
 - Full-day centers
 - Part-day centers, such as:
 - Preschools
 - Nursery schools
 - Private kindergartens
 - Head Start programs
 - Parent cooperatives
2. Family child care (four to eight children)

When this Law Does Not Apply

A license is not needed when:

- the care is given in the child's home
- the caregiver is a close relative or guardian
- the parents are on the premises for shopping, recreation or other non-work activities
- child care is sponsored by a public or private school
- supervision is for occasional activities such as classes, clubs or sports activities.
- care is seasonal, such as vacation bible schools and holiday child care programs
- a county, city, village, town, school district or library provides recreational or social programs



Certified Child Care

Certified family child care providers may care for up to three unrelated children. An additional three children may be cared for in some cases. Certification is carried out by county or tribal agencies.



Providers must be licensed or certified if they care for children whose families receive child care subsidy funding or participate in the federal nutrition program. Other providers serving fewer than four children may choose to become certified.

No Regulations Apply To

- anyone caring for one to three children in the provider's own home
- babysitters or nannies caring for children in the child's home
- a babysitter who is a close relative or guardian
- groups of school-age children, all of whom are over age seven

For More Information on Child Care...

Local CCR&R agencies offer child care choices for your infant, toddler, preschooler, or school-age child.

To reach any one of 17 child care resource and referral agencies in Wisconsin, call toll-free:

1-888-713-KIDS (5437)

or e-mail us at
info@wisconsincrr.org

Visit our web site at
www.wisconsincrr.org

Prepared by the Wisconsin
CCR&R Network, Inc.
for the state Office of Child Care.

Certification Offices

For names of Child Care certifiers in county and tribal human services departments, or for more information about certification, call
(608) 267-3708.

Licensing Field Offices Locations and Phone Numbers



- 1 Southeastern Office, Waukesha (414) 521-5100
- 2 Southern Office, Madison (608) 243-2400
- 3 Northeastern Office, Green Bay (920) 448-5312
- 4 Northern Office, Rhinelander (715) 365-2500
- 5 Western Office, Eau Claire (715) 836-2174



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
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Making child care work for Wisconsin families